



# Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Bible Month Week 2 "Mission"**

These written worship sheets are provided for you to use as we gather as one, in our homes and in our church buildings to worship God. Our hope is that for all of us, those who attend the in-person worship and for those who don't, that these sheets can accompany us as we go through the week. To pray, read and reflect on this time of worship together and nurture us in the days ahead, not just on Sunday. This week we are in the second week of the Bible Month series using Mark's Gospel, with the subtitle of "Mission" using Mark 5:21-43.

**Opening words:** He stood up to read the scriptures and the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He opened the book and found the place where these words are written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor. He has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord'.

Then he shut the book, handed it back to the attendant and resumed his seat. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed upon him and he began to tell them, "This very day this scripture has been fulfilled, while you were listening to it!" Luke 4: 19b-21

J. B. Phillips Translation.

**We sing: The Kingdom of God StF 255**

Sing/read/pray/proclaim words.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOrkdW5N AM0&ab\\_channel=RiccardoBonci](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOrkdW5N AM0&ab_channel=RiccardoBonci)

The kingdom of God is justice and joy;  
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.  
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;  
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.



The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;  
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,  
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;  
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:  
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!  
God's love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:  
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;  
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.  
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;  
And all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

Bryn Rees (1911-1983)

**Opening Prayer:** Loving and Holy God, can words ever express our deep love for You? Can we truly comprehend all that You do for us and the close relationship that You desire to have with us? We live in a world you created, so perfect and so beautiful, birds singing and waves crashing. You sent your only Son to rescue us from a life separated from You, He paid the price for our sin and He rose to new life. Thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit who lives with us, within us, as

our wonderful counsellor, to guide us through life and enable each of us to talk directly with You through our prayers.

We thank You and we love You Lord, we ask you to accept today's worship as a token of our devotion to You. We pray that as we walk each day with You we will grow to love You and know You even more. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession:** Father God we are sorry for the times when our words, thoughts and deeds have brought confusion, upset, pain and misery to others. Times when our silent inaction or participation with gossip has denied joy in our families and our fellowships. In Jesus you came for the outcast and the sinner, with sorrow we confess that we create outcasts by our lack of love. We acknowledge our need for forgiveness. our past weighs heavily; our present holds us captive and our future seems unclear. We utter a cry of repentance this morning, a shout of, 'no more Lord!'

Forgive us merciful God, wash us clean from all kinds of unrighteousness. Free us from sin's tyranny, so that our whole lives might be lived for your glory, that we might stand renewed and restored from guilt and despair. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour we pray. **Amen**

*A time of quiet to hear what God may be saying to us.*

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has come to us and offered us reconciliation and renewal of life, thank you for the forgiveness of our sins, open our eyes to Your truth, strengthen us to do Your will and grant us the joy of Your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** Absolution based

on the Church of England Common Worship

**Our Lord's Prayer (the Christian family prayer):**

Our Father in Heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the Kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. **Amen.**

**Prayer:** Lord, prepare our hearts for the reading of Your Word, help us to understand the meaning of what we are reading, may Your Holy Spirit, who inspired these words, come to us now to open our minds to Your truth. **Amen**

**Scripture Reading: Mark 5: 21-43**

<sup>21</sup> When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered round him while he was by the lake. <sup>22</sup> Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. <sup>23</sup> He pleaded earnestly with him, 'My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.' <sup>24</sup> So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed round him. <sup>25</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. <sup>26</sup> She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. <sup>27</sup> When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> because she thought, 'If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.' <sup>29</sup> Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

<sup>30</sup> At once Jesus realised that power had gone out from him. He turned round in the crowd and asked, 'Who touched my clothes?'

<sup>31</sup> 'You see the people crowding against you,' his disciples answered, 'and yet you can ask, "Who touched me?"'

<sup>32</sup> But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole

truth. <sup>34</sup> He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.'

<sup>35</sup> While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. 'Your daughter is dead,' they said. 'Why bother the teacher anymore?'

<sup>36</sup> Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, 'Don't be afraid; just believe.'

<sup>37</sup> He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. <sup>38</sup> When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup> He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.' <sup>40</sup> But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup> He took her by the hand and said to her, '*Talitha koum!*' (which means 'Little girl, I say to you, get up!'). <sup>42</sup> Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. <sup>43</sup> He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

New International Version UK (NIVUK)

**A time to pause, read again, pray, and reflect.**

### **Preaching Notes:**

Mark wrote his gospel - as a year in the life of Jesus - with no mention of our Christmas stories! He begins with simply a statement which I have shown in various translations, '*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God*' from the Authorised, & NIV, '*The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God*' from the NRSV and '*This is the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God*' from the GNB. Except for the Authorised version, all other later versions have a footnote about this verse- '*ancient authorities do not have the words – 'Son of God*'.

But note there is unanimity about the importance of Jesus – as the Christ - God's expected one.

Mark had a sense of urgency, and his gospel is the shortest – easy to read in one sitting! Halfway through (in Ch 8.) he asks this question of his disciples.... "Who do you say that I am?" That is still the challenge for you, and me, and everyone else today.

Many people, right up to today, have been led to Christ by being given the shortest gospel to read. Some years ago, Anthony Bloom while at a camp for young Russians, heard one speaker who infuriated him so much that he went home determined to confirm the stupidity of Christianity, by reading one of the Gospels. Guess which one he chose? Yes, the shortest! He later said "Before I reached the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter (of Mark) I became aware of a 'Presence' the other side of my desk. I realized immediately that, if Christ is standing here alive, it means he is the Risen Christ." Bloom then lived out his faith in many costly ways for the next 70 years, finally as Metropolitan Antony, in the Russian Orthodox Church, presiding over other Bishops.

Mark saw that Jesus's mission – his 'Kingdom movement' - would, or should, in the end, overcome all earthly powers. But that mission would not be as many Jews hoped, and not necessarily in line with the strict religious thinking of that time! Jesus would disturb many on his mission, and not least by disregarding many boundaries thought to be important.

As you read the passage for today, you will find a story within a story, of very unexpected people – and both coming to Jesus in need, and of his response to each of them. What might your reaction have been, had you been there in the crowd? What feelings are aroused in yourself as you read of the two very different people in dire need?

Can you see how Jesus was widening his Mission field? Did he hold any boundaries or have preconceived ideas as to whom he should serve, or deem worthy of his help and support? Why?

What should we as Christians in 2021 learn from this reading? and can we put it into practice?

**Amen** Written by Local Preacher Margaret Havers.

**Prayers of Intercession:** We pray for others in our troubled world. Places in the news, concerns for justice, suffering from climate change. May fresh visions and peace come to all areas of conflict. May your kingdom come - **through our prayers and in our lives.**

Lord, we think of our own country and its troubles; those living with unemployment or fear of such; also those stressed with work pressures, or making ends meet, those with broken relationships, those who see no future. We pray for your guidance and strength for all in need. May your kingdom come - **through our prayers and in our lives.**

Lord, we think of the Church throughout the world; praying for all in ordained ministry, and for all worshippers needing to play their part, as churches seek new ways to move forward. We pray for fresh visions and commitment so as to convey to others a better purpose in life by following you. May your kingdom come - **through our prayers and in our lives.**

We think of all who suffer or are in need; Lord, we pray for your healing of mind, body and spirit for those bereaved, or ill, anxious or lonely, and for all those who offer care. We pray especially for those known to us in need today. May your kingdom come - **through our prayers and in our lives.**

Lord, we think of the week ahead; Jesus, you know our worries, and the ups and downs of our lives. Strengthen us with your love, give us your power and fill us with your peace for whatever we may face in the coming week. May your kingdom come - **through our prayers and in our lives.**

Accept these prayers in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.** Contributed by Margaret Havers.

**Closing song:** Hear the call of the kingdom StF 407 Sing/read/pray/proclaim words.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLUdwB0Qvc&ab\\_channel=Bridgewater](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLUdwB0Qvc&ab_channel=Bridgewater)

Hear the call of the kingdom  
Lift your eyes to the King  
Let His song rise within you  
As a fragrant offering  
Of how God rich in mercy  
Came in Christ to redeem  
All who trust in His unfailing grace

Hear the call of the Kingdom  
To be children of light  
With the mercy of heaven  
The humility of Christ  
Walking justly before Him  
Loving all that is right  
That the life of Christ may shine through us

King of Heaven we will answer the call  
We will follow bringing hope to the world  
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
Salvation in Jesus' name

Hear the call of the Kingdom  
To reach out to the lost  
With the Father's compassion  
In the wonder of the cross  
Bringing peace and forgiveness  
And a hope yet to come  
Let the nations put their trust in Him

King of Heaven we will answer the call  
We will follow bringing hope to the world  
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
Salvation in Jesus' name.

Keith and Kristyn Getty with Stuart Townend.

**Blessing:** Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous and be strong, run the race that is set before you, looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith. May all that you do today and this coming week, be done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Thank you for joining us, we have a number of on-line midweek groups that you would be very welcome to join. Phillip 01425 673350.

Phillip Dixon, June 2021. YouTube links are external resources and are provided to help you engage with the songs. Singing the Faith and Hymns and Psalms resources are provided under license: CCLI 178182.